

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 3rd February 1877.

ADVERTING to the release of the Mahanta of Tárakéshwar from prison, and his re-instatement in the *guddee*, the *Bhárat Sangskarak*, of the 22nd January, exhorts the leading members of Hindoo Society to agitate the subject, and seek to protect their shrines and places of pilgrimage from the misdeeds of unprincipled Mahantas. The attention of Government also should be directed to the matter; and, instead of letting it alone to take its course according to the existing law, legislation should be initiated in order to provide for the management and supervision of all endowed shrines, and for regulating the moral character of their priests. There are, doubtless, many other Mahantas of the type of him of Tárakéshwar; and the evil has now reached such gigantic proportions as can only be grappled with by legislation. Nor is the subject one which would involve the undue interference of Government; seeing that a law has been already enacted for the regulation of Dramatic Performances, which, though they have their influence on public morals, are yet of less importance than the present subject, for the obvious reason that the unprincipled character of a Mahanta is productive of greater evil to society.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
January 22nd, 1877.

2. We extract the following from an article in the same paper, headed the "Increasing attention paid by Government to the subject of primary education":—We notice, with gratification, that Government has directed the attention of all district authorities to this subject; and, in a resolution published in the *Gazette*, commended the system of primary schools as conducted in the district of Midnapore. We believe that the country will advance with the progress of primary education, and that there will be much good done by a rectification of the abuses which now exist. We have, however, grave doubts as to whether Government has yet succeeded in adopting what appears to be the best means of securing this object, namely, the introduction of an efficient system of education. The *páthshálás*,—call them primary schools, or by any other name whatever,—have been a long-standing institution in the country; and the Guru Maháshayas continue to preside over them to the present day. They are supported, as formerly, by the native public, though Government grants to each an aid, varying from 12 annas to one rupee. It is idle to boast of this as though it were a great achievement. But we may remark that in respect of primary education, Government frequently seems to labor under some self-delusion. The very scanty grants-in-aid produce no better results than if they were never made. It also appears surprising to us that, while Government, on the one hand, has clearly announced its intention of not increasing the amount of the present grant, it expects twenty times the present number of boys to receive the benefits of this primary education. Without any increase of the grants, this would give about

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

an anna to each school; and we doubt whether the education of each boy would cost the State as much as half a pie. Government may find matter for self-congratulation in this sort of child's play, and may, by the publication of long reports, impress the minds of outsiders with a sense of its great love for elementary education, but the results will never be satisfactory. Even now thoughtful persons are much exercised with doubts as to whether this show of favor, on the part of Government, towards primary education, may not be intended as a kind of excuse for an indifference to high education; and this doubt is strengthened by the fact of Government gradually diminishing its grants for the latter. We desire the progress of elementary education, but not at the expense of that higher education which, as we have repeatedly shown, is in India but insignificant as compared with what has been attained in other civilized countries; and the expenditure on which from the public funds is far smaller than what has been allowed to be incurred in other lands. It would, indeed, be a matter of deep regret if, on the plea of furthering the cause of elementary education, even this scanty outlay were reduced.

If the Government really desires to manifest its love for education, it should provide for larger supplies to the Department; and, in all the *páthshálás*, employ competent teachers instead of the *Guru Maháshayas*. And both the quality and extent of elementary education should be improved. The whole system needs reformation. The lower classes ought to be brought to understand their rights and interests, and acquire, above all, an education in the practical arts. A small grant-in-aid of 8 annas, or one rupee, to a school is scarcely better than a bribe offered to the *Guru Maháshaya*.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.
January 22nd, 1877.

3. The same paper makes the following remarks, in an article on the proposal of a re-amalgamation of Assam with Bengal:—Government has nothing to lose, but everything to gain from such a measure; which, if carried out, will enable it to effect a considerable saving, while it would open out to that province a more ready means of rapid advancement. We do not see why the Government of India should not approve of the proposal. There is, however, always a marked difference between the practice and the liberal professions of our rulers; and Assam may be taken as an illustration of this. It is a large province, and consists of ten divisions, and not a few sub-divisions. Nor was there wanting in it the civilizing process of the West. And what remains to secure its prosperity? Not long since, when Assam was under the Government of Bengal, it had a high school at Gowhatty; but this was abolished, as soon as the province had been severed from Bengal, on the plea that the number of students, who sought to avail themselves of the advantages of a high education, was too small to sustain a high school. But there could be no reasonable ground for such an assertion, for a large number of the scholars annually passed the Entrance Examination; while the plea regarding the cost of maintaining it, on the ground that the income derived from the province is small, could not certainly be advanced with decency, by a Government, which had just raised Assam from a dependent province of Bengal to the dignity of an independent Commissionership, at a cost which such a measure necessarily involved. It is noteworthy that, whenever there is any reduction of expenditure to be made, the Education Department is the first to suffer. Yet, if Assam had continued to be under the Government of Bengal, the Gowhatty high school could not have been abolished, without evoking the loudest remonstrance. By doing away with the only high school in this large province, Government has deprived its inhabitants, most of whom belong to the middle classes and cannot afford to send

their sons to Dacca or Calcutta to secure a finish of their studies, of the advantage of obtaining a liberal education, one of the greatest blessings enjoyed under the British Government. The province has the foremost claim on the gratitude of the British Nation. The manufacture of tea, which benefits Europeans more than the Assamese, is carried on, so to speak, with the life blood of the Uria, the Bengali, and the Hindustani laborers, and the resources of the people of Assam. It is now a non-regulation province; and it is well known that, in such provinces, the administration of justice is not quite pure. The case would have been, however, otherwise if it had continued to form a part of Bengal; as the judicial officers would then have had to proceed according to law, and might at times punish offending planters. Was Assam made a non-regulation province, and its high school abolished, from a fear that, as in Bengal the spread of education had enabled the natives to learn their rights and to remonstrate with Government against the wrongs committed on them, a similar change would take place among the Assamese also, thus leading them to expose the defects in the administration of justice and the miserable condition of the coolies? In short, is not the existing arrangement an easy means of favoring the planters? What good has it done to Assam? The high school has been abolished; the ryots have been assessed at enhanced rates; a number of Europeans are entertained on high salaries; the interests of the planters are promoted; and the miseries of the laborers aggravated. The restoration of the province to the former system of government would effect a considerable saving, which might be expended for the good of this unlucky province.

4. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 25th January, remarks that the first two public acts of the Hon'ble Mr. Eden, on his assumption of the Lieutenant-Governorship, show the regard he cherishes for public opinion. The first, that of continuing the services of Mr. Roberts, who was brought under the operation of the 55 years' rule by Sir Richard Temple, has caused universal satisfaction; while his Resolution in the case of Hriday Patra, though it has defeated the expectations of those, who had memorialized Government in his behalf, is yet marked by such an air of sincerity, courtesy, and firmness as to have produced a very favorable impression in the public mind.

BHARAT MIHIR,
January 25th, 1877.
Circulation about 650.

5. The same paper regrets the action of Sir Richard Temple in investing Baboo Harish Chandra Chowdhry, of Mymensingh, with the title of Rajah; a gentleman who had no higher claim to this distinction, than most of the other zemindars of the district. As it is, the honor now conferred on him is regarded, by the public, as the reward of his having offered a donation of Rs. 32,000 to the Science Association, presided over by Sir Richard Temple.

BHARAT MIHIR.

6. The same paper makes the following observations, in an editorial headed, the Hon'ble Mr. Ashley Eden. His Honor possesses a strong sense of justice, and has much sympathy with the natives of this province; and we are confident that, under his administration, the expectations of the public will be realized. To rule Bengal with success some rare qualifications are needed. The spread of education, the intelligence of its inhabitants, the force of public opinion, and the presence of a European population, all combine to make the efficient government of the province a matter of no little difficulty or responsibility.

BHARAT MIHIR.

7. The same paper repeats the observations made in a former issue, and noticed in paragraph 5 of our last Report, on the loyalty of the Native Press.

BHARAT MIHIR.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
January 25th, 1877.
Circulation about 2,217.

8. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 25th January, contains an article commenting on the famine policy of Lord Lytton. It is remarked that, if there be really a famine in Madras, the instructions given to Sir Richard Temple, who has been deputed to that presidency, to organize relief operations, will prove extremely injurious; and large numbers of people will doubtless die of starvation. We had the impression that, in the opinion of the British Nation, India was a promising field for all sorts of experiments; it is, however, now found that it is more; and that the lives of its inhabitants are supposed to be of even less value than toys. Yet this seems to be the only meaning of Lord Lytton's instructions to Sir Richard Temple. The State, it seems, is not bound to provide for the wants of a starving population during a famine. The policy pursued by Government, in dealing with these visitations, is really curious; for it is clear that a line of conduct is now adopted by Lord Lytton's government, which is entirely opposite to that of Lord Northbrook during the Behar famine; while, on both occasions, the principles of granting or withholding relief have been pushed to their extreme consequences. The tenor of the Resolution is altogether heartless. It certainly did not behove Government to lay stress on the need of economy, and the poverty of the Exchequer in connection with the relief operations in Madras; since no such considerations found any weight with the rulers when the Imperial Assemblage was on the tapis.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

9. In a letter to the same paper, the writer draws a picture of the extreme distress of the people, in those districts of Eastern Bengal which were visited by the late storm-wave; and notices the causes of their distress and the circumstances that have aggravated it. These are (1) dysentery, (2) the destruction of the crops, (3) the indifference of Government, and (4) the apathy of the newspapers.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
January 26th, 1877.
Circulation about 1,168.

10. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 26th January, directs the attention of Government to the inconvenience and loss to which the inhabitants of Balgana, Debgram, Kurmun, and other villages in subdivision Culna, in the Burdwan district, are subjected, when, for purposes of litigation, they are required to proceed to the head-quarters of the subdivision; which is a distance of about 28 miles. The sudder station of Burdwan, however, is only eight miles distant; and a great boon will be conferred on them by transferring the above named villages to that jurisdiction.

PRATIKAR,
January 26th, 1877.
Circulation about 235.

11. The *Pratikár*, of the 26th January, confesses to a feeling of disappointment, at noticing the action of Government in respect to the elevation of natives to high appointments in the public service; and does not comprehend what should thus lead our rulers repeatedly to make liberal promises, and hold out high hopes to the people of this country, when they are really unwilling to fulfill them. This is unworthy of the British Government.

PRATIKAR.

12. The same paper condemns the heartless tone of the instructions, issued to Sir Richard Temple regarding the relief operations in Madras; more especially in view of the fact that they have been published so soon after the assumption of the Imperial Title by the Queen; a measure that professed to increase her interest in the people of the country.

SAMAJ DARPAN,
January 26th, 1877.
Circulation about 460.

13. The *Samáj Darpan*, of the 26th January, notices, as a significant fact, that the reputation of the British Nation for valor has steadily declined of late years, especially from the time of the Franco-Prussian War

both in Europe and Asia. England now possesses but little influence in the politics of Europe; as witness the part she has taken in the Eastern Question, where, in spite of the blusterings of Mr. Disraeli, Turkey has been at last left to hold her ground single-handed with Russia. In India, again, the same fact finds illustrations. While Government is always ready to make a show of its power in fighting with weaker foes, such as the King of Abyssinia and the Garos and the Lushais, a policy of subsidizing is always resorted to in dealing with the Amir of Cabul, and one of conciliation adopted towards the barbaric chief of Khilat.

14. In view of the difficulties to which petty landlords in general, and those in Eastern Bengal especially, who have suffered from the late storm-wave, are likely to be subjected from the operation of the Land Registration Act, a correspondent of the *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 26th January, asks Government to postpone the introduction of the law into the afflicted districts for another year, and exempt all landholders, paying a revenue of less than Rs. 20 a year, from the requirements of the Act.

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA,
January 26th, 1877.

15. We extract the following passage from an article, in the *Grám-bártá Prakashiká*, of the 27th January. We have repeatedly urged on Government the advisability, on their part, of exercising confidence in the loyalty of the natives of India, and trusting them with weapons of warfare, and granting them admission into the army. Such an action in our rulers will be fraught with beneficial results.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
January 27th, 1877.
Circulation about 200.

16. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 27th January, asks Government to extend the short period of six months, already granted to the landlords, within which they are to register their landed property to meet the requirements of the Land Registration Act. A further term of six months would be very acceptable.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
January 27th, 1877.
Circulation about 300.

17. The *Sádháraní*, of the 28th January, dwells on the injustice done to Mulharrao Guicowar of Baroda, by the British Government. His trial proved a failure; yet he was deposed, and has been ever since kept in confinement. The inhabitants of Baroda have now prayed for his release and restoration to the throne. The Government ought to comply with their request.

SADHARANI,
January 28th, 1877.
Circulation about 516.

18. The *Sambád Bháskar*, of the 29th January, is highly gratified to notice, that the Hon'ble Mr. Eden has retained the valuable services of Mr. Roberts up to his sixtieth year. This measure has given universal satisfaction.

SAMBAD BHASKAR,
January 29th, 1877.

19. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 29th January, remarks, in reference to the letter of the British Indian Association to Sir Richard Garth, on the proposal to form District Appellate Benches in Bengal, that the members have committed a grave mistake in supposing Government to be desirous to abolish all distinction between Natives and Europeans, in respect of their eligibility to employment in the public service. They are mistaken in interpreting the Royal Proclamation of 1858 in that way; as the abolition of the distinction, therein referred to, is clearly not that which exists between Natives and Europeans, but between Europeans of different creeds and complexions. Our rulers are determined to keep up the present state of things, under which natives are all but excluded from a share in the administration of their country; and it is only a few liberal minded or eccentric persons among them, as Sir John Peter Grant and Sir Richard Garth who talk otherwise.

SOMA PRAKASH,
January 29th, 1877.
Circulation about 700.

SOMA PRAKASH,
January 29th, 1877.
Circulation about 700.

20. The same paper makes the following observations on the Imperial Assemblage and the policy of Lord Lytton. The medals and other honors, bestowed on the occasion, have become a laughing stock among the people; some of whom have made imitation medals of lead to decorate themselves and now expose them for sale at a low price. The Durbar has been a gigantic failure throughout. It would have been well, if the idea had been abandoned on the breaking out of famines in Bombay and Madras. The assumption of the Imperial Title has become as productive of mischief, as the attempt to obtain a similar honor proved in the case of Julius Cæsar. It was alleged that the title would not in any way enhance the power or the prestige of the Queen; and that it was assumed only to show, in stronger light, her attachment to India and her people. We do not see how the latter object has been gained; on the contrary, the Native Princes, as well as the people, have been dissatisfied. The former, though they did not speak out before the Viceroy, have been deeply offended. They are now placed on the same footing with the zemindars, whereas formerly they were allies of the British Government. The fact of their dependence was brought into strong relief by the difference made in the number of salutes. The value of the title of "Maharajah" also, which they have all along enjoyed has been reduced in their estimation by being bestowed on men, such as Ramánáth Tagore and Jatíndra Mohan Tagore, who are subjects of the British Government. The hopes of educated natives have been blighted by the Viceroy's speech.

SOMA PRAKASH.

21. A correspondent of the same paper dwells on the rudeness and oppressions to which pilgrims, most of whom are females, are subjected at the hands of the unprincipled priests of the temple at Kalighat. The subject should receive the attention of Government.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
January 30th, 1877.
Circulation about 3,000.

22. The *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 30th January, is anxious to direct the attention of the members of the approaching Railway Conference to the grievances of the native employés on the East Indian Railway, especially those relating to the invidious distinction made between them and the European servants of the Company, as to increase of salary, leave and allowances, promotion, and savings deposited in the Provident and the Guarantee Funds.

URDU GUIDE,
January 27th, 1877.
Circulation about 400.

23. An anonymous correspondent, writing to the *Urdu Guide* from Dacca, under date the 23rd January, describes the town as doing well; especially as to the decrease of cholera. Rice continues dear, in consequence of Government being in the market as purchasers of some *lakhs* of maunds. Rain fell here for three days in succession last week, and the ryots are complaining of such an untimely fall.

BEHAR BANDHU,
January 31st, 1877.

24. The *Behár Bandhu* notices a change for the better in the *Hindi Gazette*, and hopes that the language and style too will be gradually rectified. The Editor advises the people to patronize the *Gazette*, and thereby help to promote the circulation, seeing that the province will benefit in no small degree.

BEHAR BANDHU.

25. This paper gives an outline of the result of the recent Conference at Constantinople; and remarks that, if Russia now desists from fighting, she will have taken a step back in her prestige, as she it was who was in the van all along. It may be, however, that she has some other game to play, that probably has to do with Cabul, which does not appear to be on friendly terms with this Government, as stated by the Lahore correspondent of the *Statesman*. Russia may have backed out of a war with Turkey with the view to aid Cabul, and to avoid being engaged in two directions remote from each

other. If so, Lord Salisbury has committed a grave mistake. If Mr. Gladstone's view prevailed, India would never have dreamt of any war. Had Russia been urged to fight with Turkey she would have become crippled, both in men and money; then England could have managed Turkey as she liked. Lord Salisbury has fallen into error from his ignorance of Russia's real strength; for he thought that one angry frown from Russia would suffice to terrify Turkey; but this latter power has now become alive to its interests and conscious of its own strength and independence in action, and borne its own burden, so that its power is now known to all the world. It has frustrated the counsels of the great men of Europe, and rid Russia of its notions of war.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

JOHN ROBINSON,

The 3rd February 1877.

Government Bengali Translator.

List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the 3rd February 1877.

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bhārat Sangskārak" ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	22nd January 1877.
2	"Hindu Ranjikā" ...	Bauleah, Rajshahye ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
3	"Bhārat Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
4	"Amrita Bazar Patrikā" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
5	"Samāj Darpan" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
6	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
7	"Pratikār" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
8	"Moorshedabad Patrikā" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
9	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
10	"Burdwan Prachārikā" ...	Burdwan ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
11	"Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitoishinī" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
13	"Dacca Prakāsh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	28th ditto.
14	"Sādhārānī" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	28th ditto.
15	"Soma Prakāsh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	29th ditto.
16	"Sambād Bhāskar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	29th ditto.
17	"Sulabha Samāchār" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	30th ditto.
18	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	30th & 31st January & 1st Feb. 1877.
19	"Sambād Prabhākar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	18th to 26th January 1877.
20	"Sambād Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	27th January to 1st February 1877.
21	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	27th January 1877.
22	"Behār Bandhu" (in Hindi) ...	Bankipore, Patna ...	Ditto ...	31st ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

